Sarah-Quita Offringa

Aruba's windsurfing superstar

Sarah-Quita is known on the windsurfing circuit as "the girl with big hair."

At the 2009 Professional Windsurfers Association (PWA) Grand Slam in Fuerteventura, Canary Islands, Sarah-Quita Offringa of Aruba, the 18-year-old women's world champion, sailed her best heat of the year and successfully defended her title for the second year in a row. Her 2008 win had made her the youngest PWA Women's Freestyle Champion ever! Sarah-Quita still holds a perfect record of not losing a heat since the start of the season in 2008. "I am happy that I was able to retain my title but most of all, I am happy to represent Aruba at these events. It's a wonderful small island that I want people to know more about," she explains.

A few days later, Sarah-Quita made a name for herself in the competitive world of slalom as well, taking second place in Alacanti, Turkey, at the Women's Pegasus Airlines World Cup (August 10 – 15). With a sensational victory in race eight, in the face of immense pressure, this young star claimed the "sailor of the day" award.

Known on the windsurfing circuit as "the girl with big hair," Sarah-Quita set the world record in 2006 as the youngest woman to win a gold medal in the Women's Freestyle Competition during the second leg of the Professional Windsurfers Association (PWA) World Tour. In 2007, she returned to the Canary Islands to win first place at the PWA Women's Freestyle Competition in Lanzarote, tied for first place in the Canary Islands competition, and came in second in Fuerteventura in the Grand Slam.

"Right now, most of my life revolves around windsurfing and I think it will stay this way for the time being. I cannot do without it; it's actually a way of life for me. Before beginning my university studies, I plan to take the year off to travel and windsurf in different spots all over the world such as Brazil, Australia and Holland."